



Thursday, July 29, 2004

Vol. 4, No. 55

## Discovery completes major Return to Flight additions

▲ **Shuttle Update:** Orbiter Discovery was powered up this week in the OPF for Return to Flight, following the addition of new modifications that will help monitor the vehicle for safe flight. Technicians installed wiring to support the addition of the External Tank camera, wing leading edge sensors and the orbiter boom sensor system. These upgrades are in response to the Columbia Accident Investigation Board's recommendations.

Wiring for 66 accelerometer sensors and 22 temperature sensors on each of the wing leading edges was added to acquire acceleration and temperature information on ascent. The sensors underwent impact testing at Southwest Research Institute in San Antonio that showed they could detect the occurrence of a foam impact similar in size and velocity to the foam piece thought to have affected the Columbia vehicle.

▲ **ISS Update:** Space agency leaders from the United States, Russia, Japan, Europe and Canada met July 23 at the ESA Technical Centre in Noordwijk, The Netherlands, to discuss International Space Station (ISS) cooperation activities. At this meeting, the ISS Partnership unanimously endorsed the ISS technical configuration and reviewed the status of ISS on-orbit operations and plans. The new ISS configuration is planned for completion by the end

of the decade and will accommodate on-orbit elements from each of the ISS partners. The configuration will enable increased utilization and will provide early opportunities for an enhanced crew of more than three.

The partnership also agreed that additional assessments would be conducted to confirm the ISS flight program in a nominal mode in 2005. Further, it would evaluate opportunities to accelerate the launch of the Japanese and European research modules JEM (Kibo) and Columbus and establish a specific schedule to enhance the permanent crew.

■ **Blood Drive: Everyone Is Welcome To Donate** — The ELVIS Contractor Team (Analex, ai Solutions and SAIC) is sponsoring a blood drive **8 a.m. – 2 p.m. Aug. 3.** The Central Florida Blood Mobile will be parked outside the O&C Building on the north side. Bring your Club Red membership card and become eligible to receive discount coupons to Darden Restaurants. You will also receive 50 percent off regular adult admission to Sea World and save \$5 on admission for up to six members of your family. ***Give the gift of life and promote this life-saving cause.*** For more information or to schedule your appointment, e-mail [aida.teague@analex.com](mailto:aida.teague@analex.com).

■ **Sign Language Classes** — The Disability Awareness and Action Working Group (DAAWG) is

## ISS gets go-ahead from international space leaders

sponsoring an introductory Sign Language class offered to all KSC employees (NASA and contractor). This is a one-hour, once-a-week course for three consecutive weeks. The course intends to introduce attendees to the basics of American sign language and deaf culture. Attendees will learn work-related vocabulary and phrases. Further, they will leave with resources to expand their knowledge on their own. This course is not listed in the NORS system. Therefore, attendance is first come, first served. Classes are from 1 to 2 p.m. on Aug. 2, 9 and 16 in HQ/2201; and Aug. 5, 12 and 19 in OSB/5308. Please send an e-mail to [Lisa.R.Arnold@nasa.gov](mailto:Lisa.R.Arnold@nasa.gov) for more information.

■ **Education Opportunity** — Webster University is still accepting registrations for the fall term, beginning Aug. 14. Classes meet evenings and weekends on Merritt Island and also at KSC for badged employees. Current students can register by telephone, fax, e-mail or online at the Webster University Web site, [www.webster.edu](http://www.webster.edu), or by visiting the Merritt Island campus. For more information, call 449-4506 or e-mail Carol Marx at [marxc@webster.edu](mailto:marxc@webster.edu).

■ **Did You Know?** The ISS effort involves more than 100,000 people in space agencies and 500 contractor facilities in 37 states and in 16 countries.